

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 214513

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214513

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON AI REPORT

1. CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUB-COMMITTEE OF HIRC HAS SCHEDULED HEARING SEPT 15 TO HEAR TESTIMONY OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S TOM JONES ON AI REPORT ON VISIT TO PHILIPPINES. JONES EXPECTED MAKE TEXT OF FINAL REPORT PUBLIC AT THAT TIME.

2. IN PREPARATION FOR FRASER HEARING, ANTICIPATED INQUIRIES TO FOLLOW, AND EVENTUAL REQUEST FROM SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TESTIMONY BY ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT WHETHER GOP HAS DONE ANYTHING TO IMPLEMENT AI RECOMMENDATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON TORTURE. IF GOP HAS TAKEN ANY SIGNIFICANT ACTION, IS THERE ANY WAY GOP COULD PASS THIS WORD TO AI PRIOR TO SEPT 15 HEARING?

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 214513

3. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY JUDGMENTS ON FOLLOWING

QUESTIONS RE TORTURE, WHICH APPEARS TO BE ELEMENT OF REPORT CLEARLY MOST DAMAGING TO GOP AND MORE SERIOUS THAN OTHER PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN PHILIPPINES:

A. IS AI REPORT BALANCED? IS IT ACCURATE?

B. IS TORTURE CONTINUING? WE NOTE MOST OF CASES LISTED BY AI WERE ARRESTED IN 1974-EARLY 1975 PRIOR DE LA TORRE CASE.

C. HAS ANYTHING HAPPENED TO AFP PERSONNEL MOST DEEPLY INVOLVED? ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN?

D. CAN EMBASSY CONFIRM TORTURE ALLEGATIONS FROM OWN SOURCES?

E. CAN EMBASSY CHECK NAMES OF ALLEGED VICTIMS OF TORTURE AGAINST ITS OWN FILES FOR ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION?

4. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMPREHENSIVE REPORT CONTAINED MANILA 10121 AND SHARE JUDGMENT THAT REPORT, EMANATING FROM RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, WILL CARRY MORE CREDIBILITY THAN THOSE COMING FROM LOCAL SOURCES. KISSINGER

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